

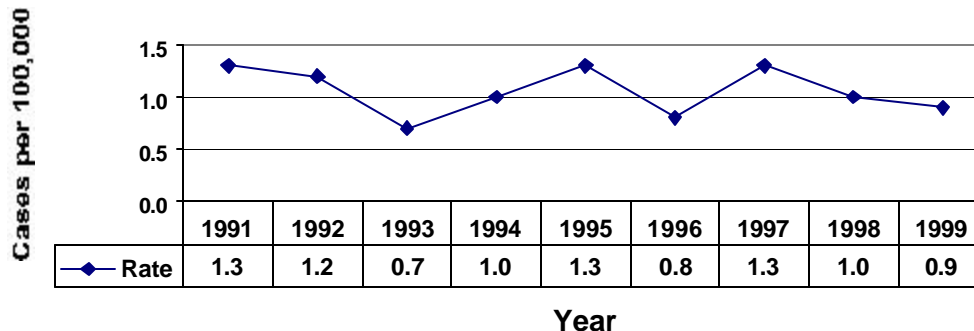
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Meningococcal disease, an acute bacterial disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, is most commonly manifested as meningitis, but it is also reportable if confirmed in other normally sterile sites. The disease is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, intense headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, and often a petechial rash. Delirium and coma often appear and fulminant cases may exhibit sudden prostration, ecchymoses and shock. With early diagnosis and therapy the case fatality rate is between 5% and 15%. Transmission of the organism is from person to person through infected droplets of discharges from the nose and throat, more often from infected carriers than from cases.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

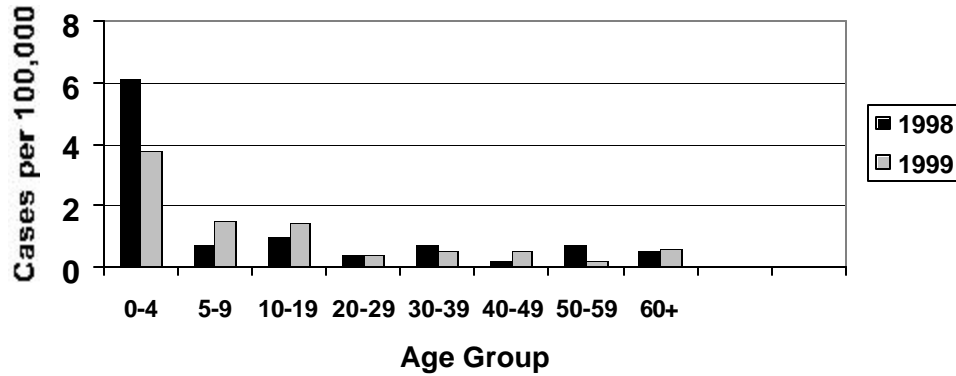
- Isolation of *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site (such as blood, CSF, or less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).

**Meningococcal Disease Incidence, Kentucky
1991-1999**



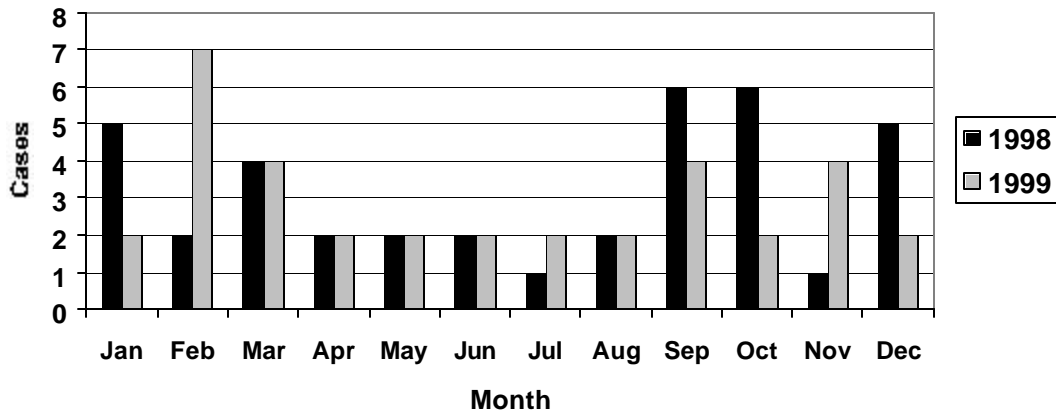
	1998	1999
Number of Cases	38	35
Rate per 100,000	1.0	0.9
Rate by Gender		
Female	1.0	1.3
Male	1.0	0.5

Meningococcal Disease, Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky, 1998-1999

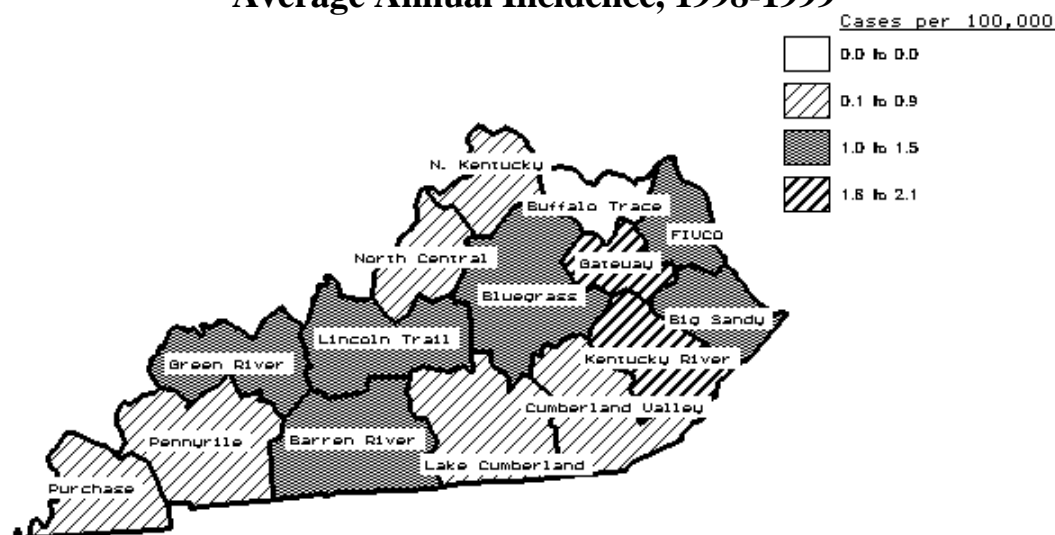


Reported incidence was highest in children 0-4yrs of age; 6.1 cases per 100,000 in 1998, and 3.8 cases per 100,000 in 1999.

Meningococcal Disease by Month of Onset Kentucky, 1998-1999



Meningococcal Disease by District, Kentucky **Average Annual Incidence, 1998-1999**



District Meningococcal Disease Rates **Per 100,000**

District	1998 Rate	1999 Rate	Av. Annual Rate
1. Purchase	0.5	0.0	0.3
2. Pennyrile	0.5	0.5	0.5
3. Green River	1.0	1.0	1.0
4. Barren River	1.2	1.2	1.2
5. Lincoln Trail	0.8	1.3	1.1
6. North Central	0.7	0.7	0.7
7. Northern Kentucky	1.3	0.3	0.8
8. Buffalo Trace	0.0	0.0	0.0
9. Gateway	1.4	2.7	2.1
10. Fivco	1.5	1.5	1.5
11. Big Sandy	1.8	1.2	1.5
12. Kentucky River	1.6	1.6	1.6
13. Cumberland Valley	0.4	1.3	0.9
14. Lake Cumberland	0.0	0.5	0.3
15. Bluegrass	1.4	1.1	1.3